

Amendments to the Claims

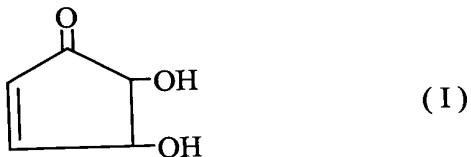
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Cancelled)

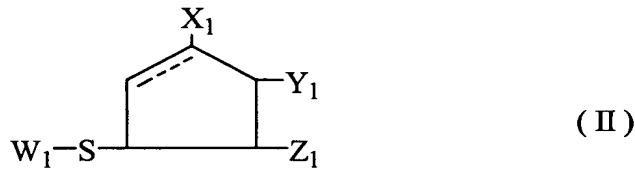
6. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



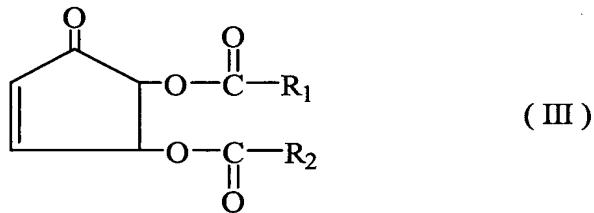
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (II) :



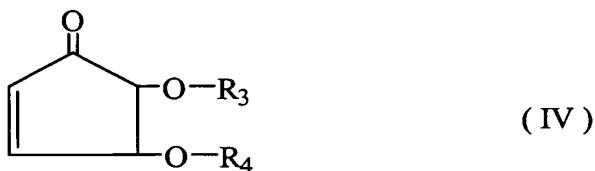
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring,  $X_1$  is OH,  $Y_1$  is =O and  $Z_1$  is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring,  $X_1$  is =O,  $Y_1$  is OH and  $Z_1$  is OH;  $W_1$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (III) :



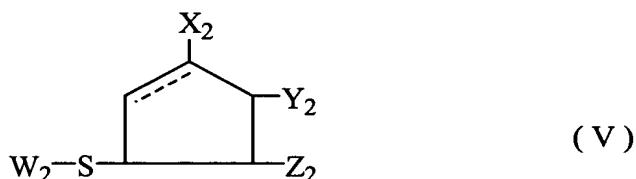
wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV) :



wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are not simultaneously H;

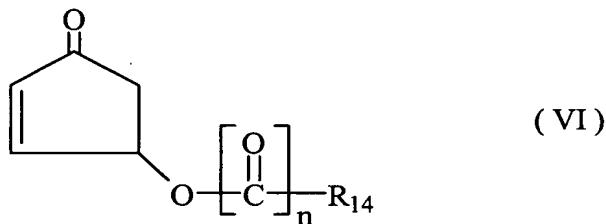
a compound of formula (V)



wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X<sub>2</sub> is OR<sub>5</sub>, Y<sub>2</sub> is =O and Z<sub>2</sub> is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X<sub>2</sub> is =O, Y<sub>2</sub> is OR<sub>6</sub> and Z<sub>2</sub> is OR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>5</sub> is R<sub>8</sub> or -(CO)-R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> is H, R<sub>10</sub> or -(CO)-R<sub>11</sub>; and R<sub>8</sub> is H, R<sub>12</sub> or -(CO)-R<sub>13</sub> (wherein R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub>, R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or

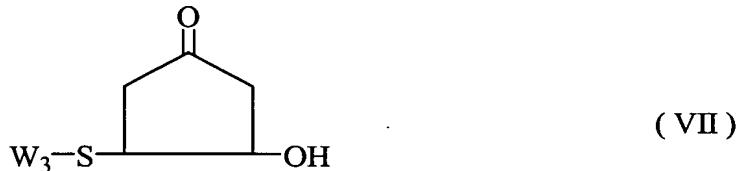
aromatic aliphatic group, and R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> may be H), provided that R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are not simultaneously H; W<sub>2</sub> is a residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI) :



wherein R<sub>14</sub> is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and n is 0 or 1, provided that if n is 0, R<sub>14</sub> is not H;

a compound of formula (VII) :



wherein W<sub>3</sub> is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, cirrhosis, cholestasis in liver, chronic nephritis, wound, senile dementia, Alzheimer's

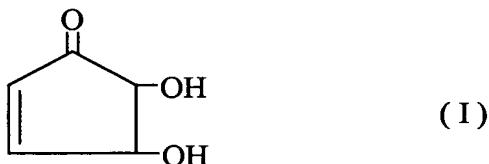
disease, peripheral neuropathy, a cerebrovascular disease, apex of brain, a degenerative disease resulting from head injury, anesthetic intoxication, growth impairment, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, osteoporosis, and renal insufficiency,

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10 µg/kg/day and less than 200 mg/kg/day.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

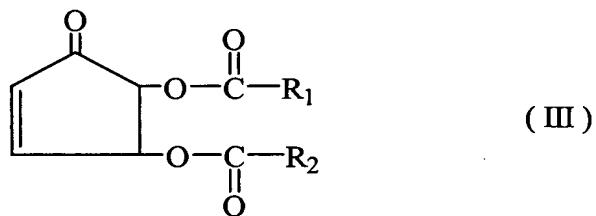
8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.

9. (New) A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, and insulin-like growth factor, the method comprising administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



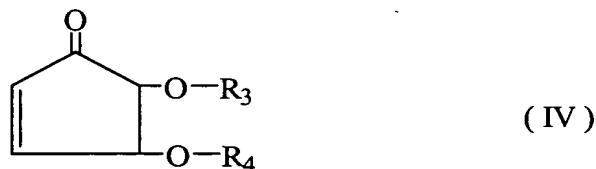
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (III) :



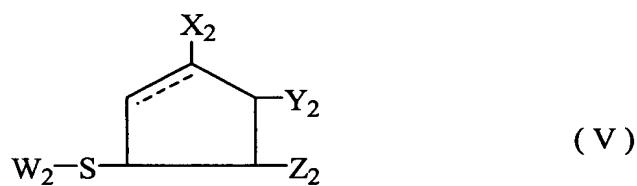
wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV) :



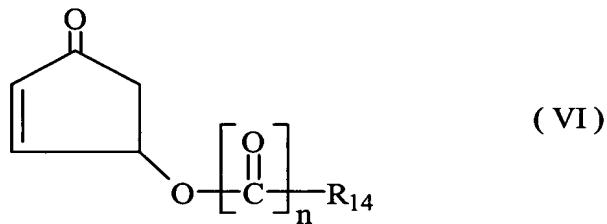
wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are not simultaneously H;

a compound of formula (V)



wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring,  $X_2$  is  $OR_5$ ,  $Y_2$  is =0 and  $Z_2$  is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring,  $X_2$  is =0,  $Y_2$  is  $OR_6$  and  $Z_2$  is  $OR_7$ ;  $R_5$  is  $R_8$  or  $-(CO)-R_9$ ,  $R_6$  is H,  $R_{10}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{11}$ ; and  $R_8$  is H,  $R_{12}$  or  $-(CO)-R_{13}$  (wherein  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$ ,  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $R_9$ ,  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{13}$  may be H), provided that  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are not simultaneously H;  $W_2$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI) :



wherein  $R_{14}$  is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and  $n$  is 0 or 1, provided that if  $n$  is 0,  $R_{14}$  is not H;

a compound of formula (VII) :



wherein  $W_3$  is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from hepatitis,

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10  $\mu$ g/kg/day and less than 200 mg/kg/day.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.